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Yellow fever.—This disease is rapidly increasing with the high temperature, and bids fair to a greater increase still. The temperature is somewhat lower to-day, due to a heavy rain in the night and the cloudy rainy day. Yesterday registered the highest temperature of the season to date, 35.5°

Smallpox.—This disease is steadily and slowly declining; the number of deaths on yesterday was as high as ever. It does not appear to be as fatal as lately, though the number of cases is still great. I still require all ships bound for the United States to have their crews revaccinated before receiving bills of health.

Cholera in Buenos Ayres.—Telegrams state that no more cases have occurred in that town. I think it is doubtful if any case has occurred there which may not be classed as cholera morbus, or summer cholera; the heat there has been very great.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office:

January 4, 1896, ship *Carl Hendricks*, Swede, for Pensacola, Fla.; steamship *Euclid*, British, for New York, N. Y.; and ship *Glama*, Portuguese, for New Orleans, La.

Respectfully, yours,

R. CLEARY, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, M. H. S.

FRANCE.

Concerning the use of antitoxine in diphtheria.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Havre, France, January 7, 1896.

SIR: My attention having been called to the discussion now going on, both in Europe and America, in regard to the success obtained by the use of the antitoxine treatment of diphtheria, some contending that the results are "certain," others that they are "probable," and again others that they are "harmful," I have, in view of the importance of the subject, second only to the effects of vaccination in smallpox, taken some pains to gather the most reliable information to be had, and now submit a brief report on the subject, which will be interesting not only to the medical profession, but to the public generally, and especially to communities where this scourge of childhood is liable to prevail.

The authorities, it will be seen, have come to the conclusion that the serum treatment exercises a favorable influence on the course of the disease and that the continued employment of it is justified.

I am, sir, with high respect, your obedient servant,

C. W. CHANCELLOR,
United States Consul.

HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

REPORT ON THE EFFICACY OF ANTITOXINE IN DIPHTHERIA.

The municipality of Havre has just opened a micro-biological laboratory for preparing and testing antitoxine serum, particularly that intended for the cure of diphtheria, which has received the indorsement of the Academy of Medicine of France. In this laboratory trials are regularly made of serum drawn from an immunized horse. This is effected by the aid of several guinea pigs, which are inoculated with the curative serum in variable doses after diphtheria has been communicated to them by injections of the toxine, or diphtheria poison.

On entering the laboratory, one sees, in a compartment set aside for the purpose, a series of cages, each containing a guinea pig, except the first, which is empty. This cage, we are told, had been occupied some days before by the unfortunate victim, which served to demonstrate the virulence of the poison. The animal had received an injection of 10 centigrams of the toxine, and died twenty-one hours after. In the next cage was an animal which had at the same time received an injection of 98 centigrams of the toxine, and 2 centigrams of the antidiphtheretic serum, to be tested. This small quantity of the serum, it appears, was sufficient to save the life of the animal in spite of the large dose of toxine administered, from which it had suffered no inconvenience, except a slight oedema or swelling at the point where the poison had been introduced.

Other animals were successfully treated by gradually weakened doses of the poison with increased quantities of the serum, even to the extent of 90 centigrams of the former to 10 centigrams of the latter. These several tests serve to establish the purity and efficacy of the serum, which is afterwards distributed for use on the human subject.

This is the principal work of the laboratory, but, in addition to supplying the serum, it also places at the disposition of physicians prepared bouillon, or some other culture fluid, in which to place bits of suspected membrane from the throat of a patient. The culture being returned immediately to the laboratory, a microscopic analysis is made in less than twenty-four hours, which reveals the presence or absence of the bacillus of croup or diphtheria, and enables the physician to decide positively as to the specific nature of the malady, and whether the serum treatment should be used or not. Of course, in well defined and severe cases there is no necessity for the microscopic examination, but the injections should be made without delay.

It is not necessary to repeat here all the marvelous effects claimed for this serum in the treatment of croup and diphtheria, but it may not be out of place to give some statistical information which has been recently furnished by Dr. Monod, chief of the sanitary bureau of France, which shows very conclusively the influence the antitoxine treatment has had on the mortality from diphtheria and its congener, croup, in France.

The Pasteur Institute distributed the serum very freely during the months of November and December, 1894, and January, 1895, aggregating about 50,000 tubes. After this, the serum was reproduced and generally used all over France. Since then, Dr. Monod has compared the statistics of mortality from diphtheria and croup in 108 cities of France, having more than 20,000 inhabitants, during the first six months of 1895 with the average mortality during the same months for the seven preceding years from 1888 to 1895. The average mortality, per six months, for the latter period was 2,627, while that for the first six months of 1895 was only 904, a decrease of 65.6 per cent.

MORTALITY.

First six months, 1888 to 1895:	Deaths.	First six months of 1895:	Deaths.
January.....	469	January.....	205
February.....	466	February.....	187
March.....	499	March.....	155
April.....	442	April.....	160
May.....	417	May.....	113
June.....	334	June.....	84
Total.....	2,627	Total.....	904

While the foregoing figures are not quite sufficient to establish with entire accuracy the full value of the remedy, the result clearly demonstrates that at least 15,000 lives may be saved annually in France by systematically employing the sero-therapeutic treatment in diphtheria and croup.

Some interesting details as to the success of the antitoxine treatment of diphtheria are also supplied from official statistics drawn up on the initiative of the German ministry of medical affairs, which addressed its inquiries to physicians, both in public and private practice.

Answers to the number of 1,349 were returned, dealing with 6,626 cases, of which 2,460 were treated in hospitals. Out of the total of 6,626 patients 86.5 per cent recovered and 12.9 per cent died, while the remainder were still under treatment. Of the hospital patients 80.5 per cent recovered and 19.5 died. In 4,871 cases the physicians expressed their views as to the value of the antitoxic serum. In 55.6 per cent of these cases the remedial effects of the serum are characterized as certain, and 30.8 per cent as probable, while in 13.6 per cent the method apparently produced no effect. The serum was described as "decidedly harmful" in only 60 cases, of which 42 recovered and 18 died, and as "innocuous" in 4,544 cases.

At the recent Congress of German Naturalists and Physicians, Professor Behring, of

Marburg, read a statistical report on the efficacy of the antitoxine serum, of which he is the original inventor. The number of cases of diphtheritis in Berlin for the twelve months ending August 31 last was 6,087, of which 3,319 were treated in hospitals—figures which showed that the epidemic character and the extent of the dread disease were rather greater than the previous year. While, however, formerly the death rate varied between 30 and 40 per cent, this percentage in the Berlin hospitals, where the serum treatment obtains, has been reduced to 16 per cent. In 821 cases, where the serum could be given within the first forty-eight hours, the mortality did not exceed 5 per cent. But for the fact that in many instances the doses given were too small and that the most dangerous cases are chiefly sent to the hospitals, the results would have been still more favorable. The mortality at the Berlin Charité, where the treatment with the serum is carefully adhered to, was 16.7 per cent, while in the Bethanien Hospital, where no serum is given, it rose to 43.1 per cent. In some of the hospitals, where the treatment was suspended only one day, the mortality actually rose to twice the average figure. Professor Virchow heartily indorsed Dr. Behring's statement.

C. W. CHANCELLOR,
United States Consul.

TURKEY.

Cholera in Constantinople.

[Report No. 144.]

Cholera cases exist always in the town of Constantinople. Since my last report 3 more cholera cases have been registered, from which 1 proved fatal. One of these 3 cholera cases occurred on the 28th of last December. It occurred at Akserai. The second occurred in the military hospital of Gumushsu at Pera last week, and the third occurred at Tunclukli. The latter was a very light case, the diagnosis of which has been made in consequence of the microscopical analysis of the dejecta. The symptom which obliged the physicians to think it was cholera was the absence of urine. The dejecta was yellow and the eyes were very lightly sunk. Besides these sporadic cholera cases, smallpox always makes some victims. There exists also an epidemic of influenza, about which I have already written in my previous reports. The number of deaths registered in Constantinople during the month of December was 1,223, 8 of which were from smallpox and 2 from cholera.

In the vilayet of Diarbekir, as well as in that of Bitlis, cholera is raging. It is not possible to know exactly the number of victims in consequence of the troubles and riots and massacres which occur in the above-mentioned vilayet as well as in nearly all Asia Minor. As a consequence of this condition, public health suffers very much.

In the vilayet of Tripoli, in Syria, as well as in the vilayet of Damascus, cholera has disappeared according to the official reports.

In Egypt cholera does not seem to make any progress. On the 13th instant 2 fresh cholera cases occurred in Alexandria.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO.

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

CUBA—*Habana*.—Under dates of January 25 and February 1, 1896, the United States sanitary inspector reports as follows:

There were 104 deaths in this city during the week ended January 23, 1896. Two of those deaths were caused by yellow fever, with 5 new cases approximately, 3 were caused by enteric fever, 1 by so-called pernicious fever, 4 by enteritis, 3 by dysentery, 3 by smallpox, 3 by pneumonia, and 3 by the grippe. The 2 deaths during the week by yellow fever occurred among civilians in the city.